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For Immediate Release
June 17, 2004

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*****UPDATED*****

Senate cuts through red-tape, sends Red-Tape Reduction Package to House

LANSING – A comprehensive package of bills to implement a processing deadline on nearly every permit or license issued to businesses in the state of Michigan passed the Senate today, said Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township.

“Everything from day-cares, pet shops, restaurants, plumbers and livestock dealers must obtain permits or licenses to operate under Michigan law,” Birkholz said. “These bills will help speed up the process of obtaining a permit so new businesses can open quicker and current businesses can renew faster without worrying about their existing permits expiring before the new one is received.”

The Red-Tape Reduction Package is part the Republican JOBS Action Plan for revitalizing the state’s economy. The plan specifically targets ways to attract new businesses, save existing jobs and promote a healthier business climate in the state.

The framework established by the new bills would:

- Implement a fixed processing deadline for issuance of a permit or license;
- Require the state to notify applicants within 30 days if an application is incomplete and requires additional information;
- Refund the current application fee, and provide a 15-percent discount on the subsequent period’s application fee, if a deadline is not met; and
- Require departments to provide reports to legislative committees to ensure the new laws are making permit and license processes more efficient and timely for businesses.

The new laws would affect licenses for new businesses as well as operational permits for current job providers. The change is similar to provisions in the recently signed groundwater and surface-water discharge permit laws.

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